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ABSTRACT

This book contains abridged and edited versions of research reports with original commentary that were previously published elsewhere. The articles reflect J. Dewey's notion that schools must prepare children to be effective members of a democracy and that life in a heterogeneous society requires cultural flexibility and cooperation that must be nurtured in school. The aim is to present recent research that can be immediately applied by the teacher in the classroom. The themes presented in six sections are: (1) teaching; (2) instructional strategies; (3) learning; (4) motivation; (5) school and society; and (6) testing. Research showing the importance of teacher expectations and academic achievement in culturally diverse populations is used to illustrate innovations for increasing student motivation and participation. The contents show that peer-tutoring and cross-age tutoring are found to improve student achievement and participation. Along with nontraditional teaching methods, nontraditional testing methods, such as portfolio evaluation, are discussed. The role of parents and ways to increase parent-school involvement as well as school-community involvement are also discussed. (JLS)

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